

U.S. Application No. 09/914,793
Attorney Docket No. 5100-000019/US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Holder for transporting plant cuttings having no support in the ground or soil, comprising at least one carrier and a series of clamping elements which are fixed to the carrier and which are each adapted to clamp a plant cutting, wherein the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier such that plant cuttings clamped in the clamping elements extend substantially parallel to each other, and the center of each of the clamping elements is situated substantially in a same central plane, wherein the central plane extends at a right angle to the plant cuttings, wherein the holder transports whole plant cuttings placed in the holder; and wherein the carrier is substantially flexible or is divided into substantially rigid pieces which are coupled in a mutually flexible manner.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the carrier extends as a strip and that the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier at regular mutual distances.

4. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the clamping elements are each fixed on the same side of the carrier.

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5. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the mutual distance between the clamping elements on one side of the carrier is greater than or equal to the mutual distance between the center of the clamping elements so that two carriers with their clamping elements can be placed between each other.

6. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is substantially flexible.

7. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is divided into substantially rigid pieces which are coupled in mutually flexible manner.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the clamping elements have been made from softer material than the carrier.

10. (Original) Holder as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the clamping elements have been made in the carrier by injection moulding and that they are connected with the carrier.

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11. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the clamping elements each comprise at least two parts, at least one of which is connected resiliently to the carrier.

12. (Currently Amended) Holder for transporting plant cuttings having no support in the ground or soil, comprising at least one carrier and a series of clamping elements which are fixed to the carrier and which are each adapted to clamp a plant cutting, wherein the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier such that plant cuttings clamped in the clamping elements extend substantially parallel to each other, and the center of each of the clamping elements is situated substantially in a same central plane, wherein the central plane extends at a right angle to the plant cuttings, wherein the holder transports whole plant cuttings placed in the holder; wherein the clamping elements each comprise at least two parts, at least one of which is connected resiliently to the carrier; and wherein the parts of each take substantially the form of a semi-cylindrical sleeve, wherein both parts are connected to the carrier such that in the non-loaded situation both parts are separated on either side by a narrow gap located in a plane at right angles to the carrier and the central plane.

13. (Previously Presented) Holder for transporting plant cuttings having no support in the ground or soil, comprising at least one carrier and a series of clamping elements which are fixed to the carrier and which are each adapted to clamp a plant cutting, wherein the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier such that plant cuttings clamped in the clamping

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elements extend substantially parallel to each other, and the center of each of the clamping elements is situated substantially in a same central plane, wherein the central plane extends at a right angle to the plant cuttings, wherein the holder transports whole plant cuttings placed in the holder; wherein the clamping elements each comprise at least two parts, at least one of which is connected resiliently to the carrier; and wherein inner walls of both parts of the clamping elements have an upward diverging form on one side.

14. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the inner walls of both parts of the clamping elements together have a substantially oval section.

15. (Currently Amended) Holder as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that each ~~of the parts~~ part of each clamping element is connected to the carrier by at least two bridges.

16. (Original) Holder as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that each of the parts is connected to the carrier by a single bridge element, and that each bridge element extends over a substantial part of the length of the parts of the clamping element.

17. (Original) Holder as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that both parts of the clamping element are mutually connected by a thin strip of material.

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18. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the carrier comprises elements which extend parallel to the axis of the clamping elements and which are connected by means of a narrowed portion to parts of the carrier extending substantially in lengthwise direction of the carrier.

19. (Original) Holder as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that the carrier comprises two rods extending in lengthwise direction to which the elements are fixed.

20. (Original) Holder as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that the clamping elements extend partially between the rods.

21. (Currently Amended) Holder for transporting plant cuttings having no support in the ground or soil, comprising at least one carrier and a series of clamping elements which are fixed to the carrier and which are each adapted to clamp a plant cutting, wherein the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier such that plant cuttings clamped in the clamping elements extend substantially parallel to each other, and the center of each of the clamping elements is situated substantially in a same central plane, wherein the central plane extends at a right angle to the plant cuttings, wherein the holder transports whole plant cuttings placed in the holder; wherein the clamping elements each comprise at least two parts, at least one of which is connected resiliently to the carrier; ~~and~~ wherein each of the parts of the

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~~clamping elements take substantially the form of a semi-cylindrical sleeve~~
~~and are~~ is connected to the carrier for tilting on an axis extending
substantially at a right angle to the plane of the carrier; and wherein the
clamping elements extend in a direction at right angles to the axis.

22. (Original) Holder as claimed in claim 21, characterized in that each of the parts of the clamping elements are connected to the carrier by means of a connection subject to torsion.

23. (Original) Holder as claimed in claim 22, characterized in that the parts of the clamping elements each comprise a plate which comprises a clamping surface on one side of the connection to the carrier and are provided on the other side with engaging surfaces for moving apart the clamping surfaces in the manner of a lever.

24. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the holder is manufactured by injection moulding or thermoforming of plastic.

25. (Currently Amended) Holder for transporting plant cuttings having no support in the ground or soil, comprising at least one carrier and a series of clamping elements which are fixed to the carrier and which are each adapted to clamp a plant cutting, wherein the clamping elements are fixed to the carrier such that plant cuttings clamped in the clamping elements extend substantially parallel to each other, and the center of each of the

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clamping elements is situated substantially in a same central plane, wherein the central plane extends at a right angle to the plant cuttings, wherein the holder transports whole plant cuttings placed in the holder wherein the carrier is substantially flexible or divided into two substantially rigid pieces which are coupled in a mutually flexible manner and is manufactured from flat material in which at least three lips are punched at the position of each clamping element, which lips are adapted to fixedly clamp ~~the clamp~~ the plant cuttings.

26. (Original) Holder as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that the holder is manufactured from paper or from plastic foil.

27. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is substantially flexible so as to reduce space taken up by the holder during storage or transportation.

28. (Previously Presented) Holder as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that the carrier is substantially flexible so as to reduce space taken up by the holder during storage or transportation.